

1. An Examiner's Amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 C.F.R. § 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee.
  
2. Authorization for this Examiner's Amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Mark S. Walker on February 21, 2008 to amend claim 23 to obviate 35 USC 101 Non-Statutory rejections.
  
3. Please amend claim 23 as stated below:

-- 23. (Currently Amended) A computer program product in a computer readable storage medium for indicating most recent messages in a related thread of messages in a message file, the computer program product comprising:  
first instructions, responsive to a first user input selecting a message for processing, for determining whether a more recent message in the thread of related messages is present in the message file; and  
second instructions for presenting a first indication of the more recent message if the more recent message in the thread of related messages is present in the message file. --
  
4. The following is an Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance:

Yoneyama, Pub. No. 2003/0064707, teaches when the portable telephone receives e-mail messages, the most-recently received e-mail message (the most-recent

received message) is displayed on the screen by a generally-provided e-mail message receiving function. When the user wishes to refer to past sent messages and received messages related to the most-recent received message displayed, the user depresses a key for searching for the relevant past e-mail messages. The prior art of record teaches the claimed invention substantially as discussed above, but it fails to teach or suggest individually or in combination that a method in a data processing system for indicating most recent messages in a related thread of messages in a message file, the method comprising: responsive to a first user input selecting a message for processing, determining whether a more recent message in the thread of related messages is present in the message file; and presenting a first indication of the more recent message if the more recent message in the thread of related messages is present in the message file as set forth in claims 1, 11, 13, and 23. Claims 1-32 are allowed because of the combination of other limitations and the limitation listed above.

5. Examiner interprets the limitation "a computer program product in a computer readable storage medium" as a device that stores computer instructions and participates in providing the computer instructions to a computer processor for execution. The computer program product in a computer readable storage medium includes non-volatile media, volatile media, computer storage devices and memories. For example, optical or magnetic disks, ROMs, PROMs, EPROMs, EEPROMs, RAM, hard disks, CDs, DVDs. The "The computer program product in a computer readable

"storage medium" does not include acoustic or electromagnetic waves, such as those generated during radio-wave, infra-red, and optical data communications.

6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the Issue Fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Le Luu whose telephone number is 571-272-3884. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00am - 4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rupal Dharia can be reached on 571-272-3880. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Le Luu/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2141